

2004

Planning & Development Department

In Fiscal Year 2004, the Office of Planning and Development prepared the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application and the City received a grant in the amount of \$631,000. The Leominster CDBG program supports projects in the following categories: code enforcement, economic development, housing, public facilities, and public services. The main goal of the program is to improve the quality of life for all the citizens in Leominster by providing for physical, economic, and public service projects that primarily revitalize the core area of the City. The following projects were undertaken during this fiscal year of the program:



Code Enforcement

The CDBG program funded the position of a Code Enforcement Officer to perform housing code inspections in the core area. In Year 29, the Inspector conducted inspections for 1,357 households. The proposed accomplishment for this activity was 1000 inspections. This individual also conducted 26 lead determinations, which resulted in 26 housing units being deleaded. The proposed accomplishment was 25 lead determinations. A total of 1,237 State Sanitary Code violations were corrected as a result of these inspections. The proposed accomplishment for this was 1,500 corrected violations.

Economic Development

The City of Leominster provided funding for an Economic Development Coordinator position. This person worked with the Industrial Development Commission and the North Central Chamber of Commerce to market the City to new companies looking to relocate or start their businesses, and with local existing companies for retention and expansion purposes. Through technical assistance and marketing the City was successful in retaining and creating low/mod jobs for residents of Leominster.



In Year 29, the Coordinator provided technical assistance to thirty-six (36) businesses to retain and create jobs for residents in the City of Leominster. Several of these businesses underwent capital expansions, which generated over \$9,400,000 of private investment. Through these projects, the City of Leominster has assisted with the retention of 948 jobs and the creation of 44 jobs with 34 being low/mod income range. The 44 jobs generated over \$1,380,000 in salaries while the 34 low/mod income jobs generated over \$884,000 in salaries.

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The Coordinator is project manager for the nearly completed Orchard Hill Industrial Park project, consisting of 125 acres of developable industrial land to be developed in the next few years. The resulting development will create and estimates 900 low / mod jobs within the next ten years as a result of the direct impact this project has on the area. The Coordinator has also worked on the continued planning of the revitalization program in the core area, a project which includes streetscape design, park revitalization, and commercial building improvements.

Housing

The Leominster CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program received \$229,350,000 in Year 29. This appropriation covered salary and expenses for a Housing Rehabilitation Specialist as well as expenses relating to the rehabilitation of various housing units. In addition, approximately \$80,000 in private funds and \$160,000 in HOME funds were used for the projects. The CDBG funds supported projects that involved a wide range of household sizes while the HOME funds were utilized for smaller sized households.

As it does every year, the Housing Rehabilitation Program serves extremely low and low-moderate-income individuals living in rental or owner-occupied housing units in the City. In Year 29, thirty-one (31) housing units were rehabilitated.

The majority of the housing rehabilitation projects in Year 29 benefited households in rental units in Leominster. The work performed in these units involved the repair or replacement of bathrooms, ceilings, doors, heating systems, sprinkler systems, and windows.

Of the owner-occupied units that received housing rehabilitation in Year 29, half contained extremely low-income households, one contained a moderate-income household, and the remainder were filled with low-income households. The most popular type of work performed in owner-occupied units during Year 29 was the replacement of the heating systems, furnace cleaning and the repair or replacement of a bathroom, a kitchen, plumbing, a septic system, a sewer line, and a water line.

Public Facilities & Improvements

In Year 29, the Leominster CDBG program funded the Leominster DPW-Pearl Street Sewer Line Project and the Leominster Storefront Improvement Program. Both of these projects served as an area benefit as all work was performed in the City's Core Area.

Public Services (Services provided to youths, senior citizens, high risk juveniles, homeless persons, persons at risk of being homeless, and disabled persons) Continued

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Battered Women's Resources: This agency provided safe shelter to battered women and their children. While in shelter, the women receive counseling, case management, life skills training, & advocacy.

Accomplishments: During Year 29, one hundred-four (104) people were proposed to be served and one hundred-ninety one (191) people actually received emergency services. The services needed most by these clients fell into the following categories: case management, children's educational (early intervention, head start, SPED), children's mental health (counseling, psychiatrist, evaluation), children's recreational activities, educational (GED, ESL, College), housing activities (workshop, contacts with housing providers), legal aid, mental health (counseling, psychiatrist, evaluation), substance abuse (detox, urine screening, counseling, AA, Al Anon), and women & children's medical services (ER, MD, or DDS).

Beacon of Hope: This organization provided respite care for mentally challenged adults. **Accomplishments:** During Year 29, thirty-five (35) persons were proposed to be served by this program and two hundred and three (203) persons received respite care.

Community Healthlink: This project provides mental health treatment to individuals without a healthcare provider.



The Beacon of Hope

Accomplishments: In Year 29, Community Healthlink served Three hundred and seventy-four (374) individuals. The proposed figure to be served was fifty (50).

Ginny's Helping Hand: This program is designed to assist families / individuals with food vouchers which can be used at local grocery stores to purchase perishable food items. Non-perishable items are provided in 3 day supplies at Ginny's Food Pantry.

Accomplishments: In Year 29, the program assisted three-hundred twenty-two (322) individuals. The proposed figure was two hundred fifty (250).

Leominster Mayor's Office - Energy Assistance Program

The purpose and mission of the Energy Assistance Program is to allow the City of Leominster Mayor's Office the opportunity to help low to moderate income families with oil / fuel during the winter months.

Accomplishments: Nine (9) families participated in the Mayor's Energy Assistance Program. **Leominster Recreation Department - Financial Assistance for Summer Youth Recreational**

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Program: This program was designed to provide funding for up to nine (9) low to moderate-income eligible youth between the ages of 6-12 to participate in future recreational programs where fees are applied.

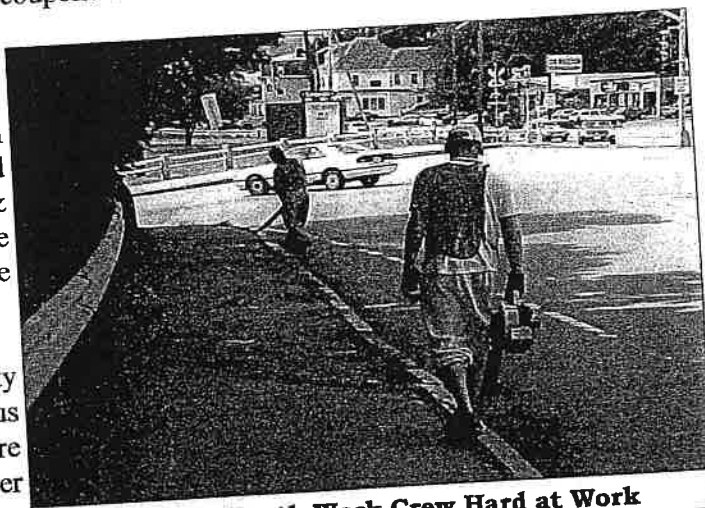
Accomplishments: In Year 29, thirteen (13) children received financial assistance from the program. This figure exceeded the proposed number of seven (7).

Leominster Mayor's Office on Neighborhoods Report Drug Traffickers Coupon: Through this program, a "Report Drug Traffickers in Your Neighborhood" coupon was placed in the local newspaper on five different occasions and coupon flyers were distributed through the Leominster Health Department, the East Side Neighborhood Association, the Riverside Village Apartments, Litchfield Terrace Apartments, Ginny's Thrift Shop & Food Pantry, and the Spanish American Center. This allowed people to report drug trafficking in their neighborhoods and remain anonymous.

Accomplishments: In Year 29, four (4) coupons were returned to the Mayor's Office reporting various suspected criminal activities.

Leominster Mayor's Office-(Boys & Girls Club of America): Program funding will be used for Rent and Utilities for the Leominster Boys & Girls Club. Additional funds will be used for programs taking place at the club.

Accomplishments: In Year 29 eighty one (81) youth participated in various activities at the B&G Club. This figure greatly exceeded the proposed number of three hundred (300).



Summer Youth Work Crew Hard at Work

Leominster Mayor's Office-Summer Youth Program: This program utilized a youth work crew for clean-up activities.

Accomplishments: In Year 29, Billy DiGregorio, Program Supervisor, and the crew, which included Morgan Davis, Steven Ellis, Michael Fratturelli, Eliseo Fuentes, Jonathon Rodriguez, and Nicole Surrette (six (6) low and moderate income youth), were hired to perform the following general clean-up duties in and around the core area:

Trash pick-up at Leominster Connector
Cleared overgrown brush on guardrails on Ice House Road
Cleaned-up islands and cleared away brush at Kentucky Fried Chicken

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Picked-up trash on Mill Street behind the Evergreen Cemetary
 Cleaned-up Islands on Central and Lancaster Streets at the Dunkin Donuts
 Removed trash in Downtown Common
 Removed old mulch and placed new mulch at the Police Station
 Trimmed hedges at the Police Station
 Picked-up trash / rubbish at Birch Street
 Cleaned-up trash & weed-wacked overgrown brush on vacant lot on Main Street next to Domino's.
 Picked-up trash on Route 117 - Quality Auto to Transfer Station (cleared for DPW mowing)
 Picked-up trash on sidewalk and trimmed shrubs at Woodblock Building
 Removed years of sand from the bridge on Johnny Appleseed Lane
 Restored / cleaned island on Mechanic Street in front of I-C Credit Union
 Removed overgrown brush on Grove Avenue at Hospital
 Cleaned-up bridge area near Wyman Liquors in North Leominster
 Picked-up trash on Viscoloid Avenue from Leominster State pool to Lancaster Street

Montachusett Addiction Council: Provided assistance to low-moderate individuals battling substance abuse issues. This program assisted with educational programs as well as provided help with finding permanent and temporary housing.

Accomplishments: In Year 29, MAC provided an array of services to one hundred-fourteen (114) individuals.

Multi Service Center - For Your Health: The services rendered in the For Your Health program provided health screening and education services include recruitment of clients, individual risk assessment, blood pressure measurement, diabetes screening, nutrition education, vision & cataract screening, cholesterol screening, and breast cancer screening.



Accomplishments: While seventy-five (75) people were proposed to be served, four hundred-seventy five (475) Leominster residents were actually served in Year 29: Pat LaGrassa the Multi Service Center's Health Educators, performed the following activities as a part of this program:

In December, blood pressure screenings were held at the LaPierre & Sunset housing facilities. The agency also distributed 300 copies of a newsletter called "Keep your children Safe" to Project Apples. The newsletter included articles on neighborhood safety, what to do when a child is missing and holiday safety.

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In January, glucose and blood pressure screenings were provided at the Notre Dame & Sunset elderly housing facilities. Due to the screenings, one client's medication was changed to prevent health risks and reduce their blood pressure. Eight existing clients visited the Multi-Service Center for cholesterol screenings. Blood pressure screenings were scheduled at the Spanish American Center, but were cancelled due to severe weather. In February, a very successful screening event was held at the Spanish American Center. Twenty-one (21) clients attended and had blood pressure screenings performed. Many tested high and were given diet & exercise information. Also, Pat LaGrassa visited the Allencrest Learning Center and provided healthy snacks to fifteen (15) children. A presentation was also provided to the children on the harmful effects of smoking.

Lastly, blood pressure and glucose screenings were held at the Lapierre Center. In March, three (3) successful / well-attended blood pressure screening events were held at the Notre Dame & Sunset elderly housing facilities and the Spanish American Centers. Many individuals found that they had high blood pressure and were instructed as their next step of treatment. Many received diet and exercise information. The monthly nutrition / health program at the Allencrest Learning Center was centered on "Good Grooming". A presentation was done on the importance of bathing daily, brushing teeth, shampooing and changing clothes. A healthy snack was also provided along with donated brushes and combs.

In April, the "For Your Health" program saw sixty (60) Leominster residents. Blood pressure screenings were held at the Spanish American Center, Waterway, George Street, LaPierre and at the Multi-Service Center. A vision screening was held at the Northwest Child Development Center where four (4) Project Apples children were screened. In addition, seven (7) low-moderate income Leominster women participated in a free mammogram & bone density screening held at Health Alliance. Also in April, the Multi-Service Center hosted a luncheon to inform Leominster school nurses of a program for health insurance awarded to families with no health insurance. The program is entitled Network Health.

In May, "For Your Health" provided health screenings at the Multi-Service Center and the Spanish American Center. Elderly residents at the Waterway, George Street, and the LaPierre housing facilities participated in blood pressure screenings. Free mammogram and bone density screenings were held as well.

In June, blood pressure screenings were held at the Multi-Service Center, Spanish American Center, Notre Dame and Sunset elderly housing facilities. A free cholesterol and glucose screening was also held. Twenty-two (22) Bennett School pre-school children received vision screenings. This service was provided by a local optometrist who volunteers his time.

Throughout the entire CDBG Year July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004 monthly blood pressure screenings were performed at the Sunset, George Street, LaPierre, Notre Dame, and Waterway Housing Facilities. In addition, quarterly, cholesterol and glucose screenings are also offered.

Riverside Village Apartments – Summer Computer Camp Program : This program offered

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low-moderate income children living in the Riverside Village Apartment Complex the opportunity to participate in a Computer Education Camp as well as experience a number of other fun activities such as art class, acting and entertainment classes and homework assistance.

Accomplishments: The Riverside Village Program served twenty-seven (27) low-mod children. This figure far exceeded the proposed number of ten (10).

Spanish American Center: The Information and Referral Outreach Worker provided services involving translations (written/verbal), advocacy, referrals, education, employment, food pantry, health information, home visits, legal information, outreach, social security information, and voter registration information to many persons in Year 29.

Accomplishments: The Outreach Worker served two hundred-eighty nine (289) households in Year 29. This program proposed to serve fifty (50) households in Year 29.

Spanish American Center: This agency administered the program Ninos para Ninos (Kids for Kids) which is a multicultural after school program that teaches children ages 6 to 12 about community involvement and service.

Accomplishments: In Year 29, while fifteen (15) youth were proposed to participate in this program, ten (10) youth participated in this program. The programs Youth Coordinator, organized the following activities during the year:

During the month of May students helped create a flyer for the SAC Health Fair. Over 2,000 flyers were distributed by the students in the Leominster / Fitchburg area.

Students had a booth at the Health Fair. Students provided community youth with information on teen pregnancy prevention, HIV / AIDS prevention and education, and tobacco prevention. The youth also handed out agency flyers, and flyers on youth services of SAC. An estimated total of 250 people attended this event. The students also assisted with the clean-up.

Four Leominster High School Seniors were awarded the SAC Herencia Hispana Scholarship award. Students and their parents were present for this event. Others present were; Leominster Public School Superintendent Marilyn Fraterelli, Eladia Romero (Congressman Office), and Jen Flanagan (State Representative Finalist). A total of 25 persons attended this event. Four of our students were also awarded the Health Alliance Scholarship

Spanish American Center: Through the Summer Fun "Verano Alegre" program, which is a multi-cultural youth program that served youth between the ages of 6 and 14 for 5-6 weeks during the summer, low-income multi-cultural youth from Leominster are targeted, as these children are unable to participate in other summer programs that are more costly.

Accomplishments: During Year 29, seventy (70) youth participated in the Summer Fun program.

Spanish American Center: The Closing the Digital Divide Program was established to provide

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technical computer training to low-moderate income individuals. Offerings included basic computer training as well as internet and office use. Clients can also utilize educational software such as ESOL and typing tutorial. Closing the Digital Divide through this "Cyber Café" model is an initiative undertaken in a network of four (4) other cafes in the Fitchburg / Gardner area.

Accomplishments: In Year 29, nine (9) individuals took part in the program and received technical computer training.

Taylor Street Educational Services: This program is designed to offer low-moderate income students assistance with MCAS & SAT I Preparation.

Accomplishments: During Program Year 29, five (5) students received assistance through the program. The proposed number to be served was six (6)

Twin Cities CDC – Business Assistance Center: The Business Assistance Center provides low-moderate income individuals with a comprehensive approach starting and running a small business. This occurs through educational seminars, loan assistance, and follow-up after the business is operating.

Accomplishments: In Year 29, twenty-one (21) individuals received assistance through the program. This figure far exceeded the proposed number of five (5).

Veterans Hero & Armistice Homesteads: These facilities provide a permanent housing environment servicing fifteen (15) homeless veterans in each home. In addition, these projects provide housing, food, emotional and clinical support to veterans who do not live in the homesteads permanently.

Accomplishments: In Year 29, twenty-two (22) individuals received services provided by the Veterans Hospice Homestead.

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Development Plans Submitted July 2003—June 2004

In Fiscal Year 2004, the City of Leominster Office of Planning and Development received a number of development plans. The aforementioned plans are listed below by which category they were submitted.

Approval Not Required Plans (ANR)

DATE	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	PURPOSE	ENDORSED
7/15/2003	Liscotti	Overlook Drive		7/15/2003
7/15/2003	Secured Financial	Pheasant Run Circle		7/15/2003
8/19/2003	June Swett	Sunrise Ave.	3 lot division	8/19/2003
8/19/2003	Wyrebek	353 Pleasant St.	divide lot	8/19/2003
8/19/2003	Peter Crisci	Rte 117/190	divide lot	8/19/2003
10/21/2003	Langen	Sixth Street	divide lot	10/21/2003
11/18/2003	HSLT Corp.	Hill Street		11/18/2003
11/18/2003	Motstecki/Day	Tisdale Street	Lot line adjustment	11/18/2003
11/18/2003	Albert Realty Trust	Royal Oaks Way	Lot line adjustment	11/18/2003
11/18/2003	Highland Manor Realty	Legate Place	Lot line adjustment	11/18/2003
11/18/2003	DeCarolis	Wheeler Street		11/18/2003
12/2/2003	Ricci	581 Pleasant Street	divide lot	12/2/2003
12/2/2003	Sivananjaiah	Independence Drive		12/2/2003
12/16/2003	Curry	Granite & Country Lane	Line adjustment	12/16/2003
12/16/2003	Benjamin Builders	Prospect/Lawrence	divide lot	12/16/2003
1/14/2004	Carter Hill Devel	Orchard Hill	4 parcels	1/14/2004
1/20/2004	Carter Hill Devel	Orchard Hill	2 parcels	1/20/2004
1/14/2004	Vitkofsky	Walnut Street	subdivide current lot	1/20/2004
2/6/2004	Wyrebek	Pleasant Street	4 lots.	2/6/2004
2/6/2004	Sango	Pierce Street	transfer-landlock piece	2/6/2004
2/17/2004	City of Leominster	Page Avenue		2/17/2004
2/17/2004	Thomas McNiff	Lincoln Terrace		2/17/2004
3/24/2004	Kevin Coleman	Manchester Street		3/24/2004
3/24/2004	Liscotti	Lancaster Street		3/24/2004
3/24/2004	Liscotti	Malbum		3/24/2004
4/6/2004	Leominster Land Trust	68 Hill Street		4/6/2004
4/6/2004	Harrington	902 Main Street	4 lots to 1 lot	4/6/2004
4/20/2004	Leominster Bus. Center	Central/Tocci	outlot conveyed	4/20/2004
6/15/2004	Kathleen Grimes	Lakeshore/clubhouse		6/15/2004

Definitive Sub-Division Plans

DATE	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	PURPOSE	ENDORSED
2/2/2001	NMJ Realty	Crown Point	282 lots	5/4/2004
12/2/2003	Angelini-Greg	Prospect St	Westview Estates	5/4/2004
5/4/2004	Whitney	Willard Street	9 lots	6/15/2004

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Preliminary Sub-Division Plans

DATE	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	PURPOSE	ENDORSED
10/7/2003	Whitney	Central St.	Industrial Park	1/14/2004
1/14/2004	Whitney	South Side-Willard	9 lots	4/6/2004
10/7/2003	BJ Realty Trust	Off Dale Avenue	28 lots	5/4/2004
6/15/2004	Peter Phillips	Mary/Bella Villa	6 lots	8/19/2004

Site Plans

DATE	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	PURPOSE	ENDORSED
7/15/2003	Goguen Construction	Phillips Street	Condos	9/16/2003
7/15/2003	Wymans LiquorMart	30 Pleasant Street	Building addition	9/2/2003
7/15/2003	Baker Realty Trust	495 Main Street	Conversion	withdrawn
7/15/2003	Bovenzi	900 Central St.	Condos/55 and older	2/17/2004
7/8/2003	Waste Management	Rte 117	modification for repairs	7/15/2003
8/19/2003	Wyrebek	353 Pleasant St.	4 units	denied
8/19/2003	Kevin Dufour	243 Lancaster St.	Car wash	11/6/2003
8/19/2003	Catherine Skehan	52 Jonhson St.	conversion	withdrawn
8/19/2003	Auto Zone	308 Central Street	store	10/21/2003
9/2/2003	Liscotti	Orchard Hill Park	target plus	1/14/2004
10/7/2003	Dietrich Industries	Lunenburg	parking lot change	11/18/2003
10/21/2003	BJ's Wholesale Club	Erdman Way	Addition	12/2/2003
10/21/2003	Lamoureaux/Rice	150-152 Fourth St.	additional apt.	withdrawn
11/6/2003	Hightech Precision Mold	Patriots Circle 1	Industrial	12/2/2003
11/18/2003	Scharmatt	797 Main Street	Car wash	1/20/2004
12/16/2003	Home Depot	Commercial Drive	modification to parking	3/24/2004
3/24/2004	Wachusett Mgmt.	Hamilton Street	Add a building	4/6/2004
5/4/2004	Manchester St. Blders	Colburn/Lawrence	Condos	denied
5/4/2004	Richard Healey	50 Central St.	New building	6/15/2004
4/20/2004	McCarty/Gagne	Searstown	modification/TacoBell	5/18/2004
5/18/2004	Leominster Devel.	Adams Street	condos	denied

Special Permit Plans

DATE	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	PURPOSE	ENDORSED
8/19/2003	AT&T	160 Highland Ave.	cell tower	withdrawn
9/2/2003	Bobka	Lakeshore/Overlook	single family	11/6/2003
10/21/2003	Cote	Danielle Drive	single family	1/14/2004
12/2/2004	Leominster Devel.	Adams Street	condos	withdrawn
4/20/2004	Cote	Alder Drive	single family	4/20/2004

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